

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

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R 270922Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6806

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2484

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID PO PT AS

SUBJ: PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN RE PORTUGUESE TIMOR

CONTINUES: AS DO OFFICIAL

DENIALS OF GOI PLANS

FOR MILITARY TAKEOVER

REF: A. JAKARTA 2285 B. JAKARTA 2390 C. SURABAYA 0149

SUMMARY: OFFICIAL GOI NEWS SERVICE ANTARA FEBRUARY 26
ISSUED SECOND INSTALLMENT IN CURRENT SERIES OF ARTICLES
ON ALLEGED COMMUNIST TAKEOVER MOVES IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR.
NEW INSTALLMENT STATES GOVERNOR AND MOST PORTUGUESE
MILITARY OFFICERS IN COLONY ARE SOMMUNISTS, AND DESCRIBES
ALLEGED "HATE INDONESIA" CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY IN COLONY
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DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT INDONESIA WITH LOCAL PEOPLE AND

IN REGION AS A WHOLE BY SPREADING RUMORS OF PLANNED
INDONESIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST PORTUGUESE TIMOR. LEADING
DAILY KOMPAS APPARENTLY RESISTED GIVING PLAY TO THIS
OBVIOUS GOI-AUTHORED PROPAGANDA. SIMULTANEOUSLY REGIONAL
MILITARY COMMANDER FOR JAVA AND LESSER SUNDAS DENIED TO
PRESS THAT GOI BUILDING UP FORCES IN TIMOR, BUT CONFIRMED
HE PLANS TRAVEL TO AREA IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THESE
REPORTS ILLUSTRATE MIXED SIGNALS NOW EMANATING FROM GOI
ON TIMOR QUESTION. END SUMMARY

1. SECOND INSTALLMENT OF NEW SERIES ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR
ISSUED BY OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE ANTARA FEBRUARY 26.
ARTICLE DESCRIBES INTENSIFICATION OF ALLEGED "HATE
INDONESIA" CAMPAIGN IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND INCREASED
AGITATION TO "TOTALLY IMPOSE COMMUNISM" IN COLONY. HATE
CAMPAIGN SAID TO INCLUDE SPREADING OF "FALSE IMAGE THAT
INDONESIA ABOUT TO STAGE AGGRESSION" IN ATTEMPT TO
"DISGRACE GOOD IMAGE OF INDONESIA IN REGION." ARTICLE
PREDICTS FORMATION OF NEW POLITICAL FRONT COMPOSED OF
COMMUNIST ARMED FORCES FIGURES AND FRETELIN PARTY MEMBERS,
AND SAYS GOTJIN LISBON FULLY SUPPORTS THIS DEVELOPMENT
AS DOES PT GOVERNOR LEMOS PIRES, WHO ARTICLE ALLEGES IS
COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER.

2. ARTICLE REPEATS MANY OF CLAIMS IN PREVIOUS INSTALL-
MENT (REF A) CONCERNING LEFTIST TERROR CAMPAIGN AGAINST
APODETI (PRO INDONESIA PARTY) SUPPORTERS. ONE ADDITIONAL
EXAMPLE GIVEN, CASE OF FELICIANO, A CHIEF OF ATSABE
DISTRICT WHO ALLEGEDLY UNDER DETENTION AND "TORTURE" IN
DILI SINCE JANUARY. REPORT STATES THAT 14,000 MEMBER
BATUMANU-ATSABE TRIBE ARE APODETI SUPPORTERS WITH LONG
TIES WITH INDONESIA, AND THAT KING OF TRIBE WAS PRESSURED
BY ARMED FORCES WHEN HE TRIED TO ASSIST FELICIANO.
ARTICLE CITES AS SOURCE OF REPORT INTERVIEWS BY "ROVING
ANTARA CORRESPONDENT" IN ATAMBUA WITH "POLITICAL REFUGEES"
FROM PT WHO REFUSED TO BE IDENTIFIED FOR "SECURITY
REASONS."

3. ANTARA REPORT FRONT PAGED FEBRUARY 27 BY EVERY
JAKARTA PAPER EXCEPT LEADING INDEPENDENT KOMPAS (WHICH
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HAD NOT CARRIED FIRST REPORT AT ALL AND CARRIED HIGHLY
ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THIS ONE ON LAST PAGE.) KOMPAS
RELUCTANCE TO FEATURE REPORT, COUPLED WITH STATEMENT TO
POLICONS BY ANTARA STAFFER PROFESSING IGNORANCE AS TO
ACTUAL SOURCE OF REPORTS AND SOME EMBARRASSMENT OVER
THEIR LURID CHARACTER, PROVIDE FURTHER INDICATIONS OF
PROPAGANDISTIC NATURE OF ARTICLES, WHICH CLEARLY BEING
WRITTEN AND DISTRIBUTED BY GOI, PROBABLY FROM JAKARTA.

4. SIMULTANEOUSLY, FEBRUARY 27 PRESS ALSO CARRIES DENIAL BY LTGEN WIDODO, TERRITORIAL COMMANDER FOR JAVA AND NUSATENGARA, INCLUDING TIMOR, THAT INDONESIA MILITARY FORCES IN TIMOR BEING AUGMENTED. WIDODO ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT SPECIAL MILITARY TEAM NOW SURVEYING SITUATION IN INDONESIAN TIMOR, AND THAT HE WOULD TRAVEL TO TIMOR HIMSELF SHORTLY.

5. COMMENT: JUXTAPOSITION OF ANTARA REPORTS AND OFFICIAL DENIALS BY WIDODO AND OTHERS (REF B) ILLUSTRATE MIXED NATURE OF SIGNALS CURRENTLY EMANATING FROM JAKARTA RE GOI INTENTIONS VIS A VIS PORTUGUESE TIMOR, AS WELL AS EMBARRASSMENT OF GOI OVER WIDESPREAD REPORTS OF PLANNED INDONESIAN TAKEOVER.
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